#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

ADAM AILION, individually and on behalf of a class of all persons and entities similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

UNITED ENROLLMENT SERVICES LLC

Defendant.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

#### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Adam Ailion (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges on personal knowledge, investigation of his counsel, and on information and belief, as follows:

#### **Preliminary Statement**

1. As the Supreme Court recently explained, "Americans passionately disagree about many things. But they are largely united in their disdain for robocalls. The Federal Government receives a staggering number of complaints about robocalls—3.7 million complaints in 2019 alone. The States likewise field a

constant barrage of complaints. For nearly 30 years, the people's representatives in Congress have been fighting back. As relevant here, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, known as the TCPA, generally prohibits robocalls to cell phones and home phones." *Barr v. Am. Ass'n of Political Consultants*, No. 19-631, 2020 U.S. LEXIS 3544, at \*5 (July 6, 2020).

- 2. This case involves a campaign by United Enrollment Services, LLC ("United Enrollment") to market insurance services through the use of prerecorded telemarketing calls in plain violation of the TCPA.
- 3. The plaintiff Adam Ailion ("Plaintiff") never consented to receive the call, which was placed to him for telemarketing purposes. Because telemarketing campaigns generally place calls to hundreds of thousands or even millions of potential customers *en masse*, the Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a proposed nationwide class of other persons who received illegal telemarketing calls from or on behalf of Defendant.

#### **Parties**

- 4. Plaintiff Adam Ailion is, and at all times mentioned herein was, an individual citizen of Georgia in this District.
- 5. Defendant United Enrollment Services LLC is a Florida limited liability company with a principal place of business in Boca Raton, FL.

#### **Jurisdiction & Venue**

- 6. The Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the Plaintiff's claims arise under federal law.
- 7. This Court has jurisdiction over the defendant makes telemarketing calls into this District.
- 8. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District, as the telemarketing calls to the Plaintiff came into this District.

#### **The Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

- 9. The TCPA makes it unlawful to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service or that is charged per the call. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 10. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A) or 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B). *See* 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).
  - 11. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission

("FCC"), the agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be costly and inconvenient.

- 12. The FCC also recognized that "wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used." *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order, 18 F.C.C. Rcd. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).
- 13. In 2013, the FCC required prior express written consent for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls ("robocalls") to wireless numbers and residential lines. Specifically, it ordered that:

[A] consumer's written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received "clear and conspicuous disclosure" of the consequences of providing the requested consent, i.e., that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates.[] In addition, the written agreement must be obtained "without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.[]"

In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991, 27 F.C.C. Rcd. 1830, 1844 (2012) (footnotes omitted).

#### **Factual Allegations**

- 14. Defendant United Enrollment is a "person" as the term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 15. Plaintiff Ailion is a "person" as the term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 16. Plaintiff Ailion's telephone number, 678-760-XXXX, is assigned to a cellular telephone service.
- 17. The Defendant called Ailion's telephone number, 678-760-XXXX, on January 12, 2021.
- 18. The calls solicited the Plaintiff to purchase healthcare services offered by United Enrollment.
- 19. The call began with pre-recorded message, which provided in pertinent part that the call was made for the purpose of offering health insurance services.
  - 20. However, the company that was making the call was not identified.
- 21. In order to identify the calling party, the Plaintiff responded to the pre-recorded message.
- 22. When the Plaintiff was able to speak with a live human, she identified herself as "Kelly" with "United Enrollments".

- 23. "Kelly" then transferred the Plaintiff to "Lee", who indicated he was licensed to sell insurance in Georgia.
  - 24. Both "Kelly" and "Lee" advertised insurance services on the call.
- 25. Plaintiff did not provide his prior express written consent to receive the telemarketing calls at issue.
  - 26. The calls were not necessitated by an emergency.
- 27. Other individuals have been contacted by the Defendant with similar messages. *See* <a href="https://www.scammer.info/d/42569-robocalling-healthcare-scam-united-enrollment-services">https://www.scammer.info/d/42569-robocalling-healthcare-scam-united-enrollment-services</a> (Last Visited February 1, 2021).
- 28. Plaintiff and the other call recipients were harmed by these calls. They were temporarily deprived of legitimate use of their phones because their phone lines were tied up during the telemarketing calls and their privacy was improperly invaded. Plaintiff was charged for the calls. Moreover, these calls injured Plaintiff and the other call recipients because they were frustrating, obnoxious, annoying, were a nuisance and disturbed the solitude of Plaintiff and the class.

#### **Class Action Statement**

29. As authorized by Rule 23(b)(2) or (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a class of all other persons or entities similarly situated throughout the United States.

- 30. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following class (the "Class") pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.
- 31. Plaintiff proposes the following Class definition, subject to amendment as appropriate:

Robocall Class: All persons within the United States: (1) to whose cellular telephone number or other number for which they are charged for the call (2) Defendant (or an agent acting on behalf of Defendant) placed a telemarketing call (3) within the four years prior to the filing of the Complaint (4) using an identical or substantially similar pre-recorded message used to place telephone calls to Plaintiff.

- 32. Plaintiff Ailion is a member of and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class as he has no interests that conflict with any of the class members.
- 33. Excluded from the Class are counsel, the Defendant, and any entities in which the Defendant has a controlling interest, the Defendant's agents and employees, any judge to whom this action is assigned, and any member of such judge's staff and immediate family.
- 34. This Class Action Complaint seeks injunctive relief and money damages.
- 35. The Class as defined above is identifiable through the Defendant's dialer records, other phone records, and phone number databases.

- 36. Plaintiff does not know the exact number of members in the Class, but Plaintiff reasonably believes Class members number, at minimum, in the hundreds based on the *en masse* nature of telemarketing.
- 37. The joinder of all Class members is impracticable due to the size and relatively modest value of each individual claim.
- 38. Additionally, the disposition of the claims in a class action will provide substantial benefit to the parties and the Court in avoiding a multiplicity of identical suits.
- 39. There are well-defined, nearly identical, questions of law and fact affecting all parties. The questions of law and fact, referred to above, involving the class claims predominate over questions that may affect individual Class members.
- 40. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and to the proposed Class, including but not limited to the following:
  - (a) Whether the Defendant used a pre-recorded message to send telemarketing calls;
  - (b) whether Defendant made calls to Plaintiff and members of the Class without first obtaining prior express written consent to make the calls;
  - (c) whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the TCPA; and
  - (d) whether members of the Class are entitled to treble damages based on the willfulness of Defendant's conduct.

- 41. Plaintiff has retained counsel with substantial experience in prosecuting complex litigation and class actions, and especially TCPA class actions. Plaintiff and his counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the other members of the Class, and have the financial resources to do so.
- 42. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual class members, and a class action is the superior method for fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. The only individual question concerns identification of class members, which will be ascertainable from records maintained by Defendant and/or its agents.
- 43. The likelihood that individual members of the Class will prosecute separate actions is remote due to the time and expense necessary to prosecute an individual case.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act 47 U.S.C. 227(b) on behalf of the Robocall Class

- 44. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations from all previous paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 45. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant and/or their affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf constitute

numerous and multiple violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, by making calls, except for emergency purposes, to the cellular telephone numbers of Plaintiff and members of the Class delivering pre-recorded messages.

- 46. As a result of Defendant's and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf's violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, Plaintiff and members of the Class presumptively are entitled to an award of \$500 in damages for each and every call made to their cellular telephone numbers using an artificial or prerecorded voice in violation of the statute, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 47. If the Defendant's conduct is found to be knowing or willful, the Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to an award of up to treble damages.
- 48. Plaintiff and members of the Class are also entitled to and do seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant and/or its affiliates, agents, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf from violating the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, by making calls, except for emergency purposes, to any cellular telephone numbers using an artificial or prerecorded voice in the future.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the following relief:

Injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant from calling telephone A.

numbers advertising their goods or services, except for emergency purposes, using

a pre-record message in the future;

That the Court enter a judgment awarding Plaintiff and all class В.

members statutory damages of \$500 for each violation of the TCPA and \$1,500 for

each knowing or willful violation; and

C. An order certifying this action to be a proper class action pursuant to

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, establishing an appropriate Class the Court

deems appropriate, finding that Plaintiff is a proper representative of the Class, and

appointing the lawyers and law firms representing Plaintiff as counsel for the

Class;

D. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND** 

Plaintiff requests a jury trial as to all claims of the complaint so triable.

Dated: February 3, 2021

PLAINTIFF, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

By:

/s/ Steven H. Koval

Steven H. Koval

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### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH L.R. 5.1.C & 7.1.D**

Pursuant to L.R. 7.1.D, I certify that this document has been prepared with 14-point, Times New Roman font, approved by the Court in L.R. 5.1.C.

/s/ Steven H. Koval